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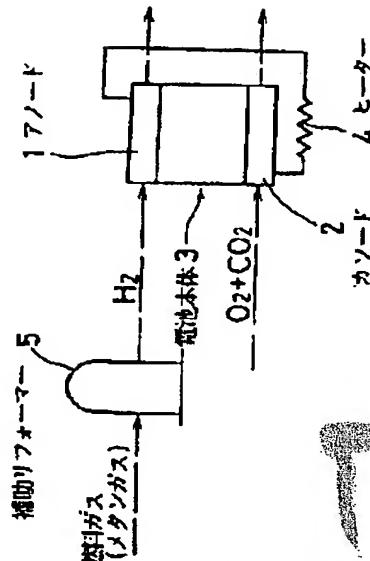
APPLICATION DATE : 23-04-90
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APPLICANT : HITACHI LTD;

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TITLE : METHOD FOR OPERATING FUEL CELL AND ITS POWER GENERATING SYSTEM



ABSTRACT : PURPOSE: To suppress drop in the performance of a fuel cell, provide it with long life, improve the starting characteristics, and enhance the operation efficiency by supplying a small amount of reaction gas to the cell body even at the time of hot standby, and maintaining the cell in power generating state.

CONSTITUTION: A gas chiefly containing hydrogen obtained by modifying the fuel gas in a smaller amount than in normal power generation using an aux. reformer 5 is supplied to the anode 1 of the cell body 3 at the time of hot standby, while another gas containing carbon dioxide and oxygen in the corresponding rate of flow is supplied to the cathode 2 to put the cell in the minute power-generating state, wherein the obtained electricity is used as power for a heater 4. This can prevent occurrence of the electrolyte moving phenomenon resulting from change of the gas type in the cell body 3, and the reacting field of the cell can be maintained in proper condition at all times. This achieves suppressing performance drop of the battery, providing it with long life, improving the starting characteristics, and enhancing the operation efficiency.

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